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**LT. GOVERNOR BROWN AND THE BRAC SUBCABINET
RELEASE THE
2008 BRAC PROGRESS REPORT AND LAUNCH BRAC WEBSITE**

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 23, 2008) – Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, along with the BRAC Subcabinet, presented the 2008 BRAC Progress Report yesterday to Governor Martin O'Malley. The report was released to the public today with the launch of a new BRAC Web site, www.brac.maryland.gov.

"Last December, we presented Governor O'Malley with a playbook for progress, the BRAC Action Plan. We are running those plays and, because of our work and our strengthened partnerships, Maryland is ready for BRAC," Lt. Governor Brown said. "I'm excited to release our progress report and launch www.brac.maryland.gov. This new Web site will be a resource to Marylanders and future Marylanders about BRAC opportunities."

"Lt. Governor Brown's leadership on BRAC has brought us to this point in the process, building on the role Maryland has traditionally played in protecting our national security. BRAC is an opportunity for our State to play an even larger role while taking advantage of the economic advantages it offers," Governor Martin O'Malley said. "I am confident that Maryland will be ready for BRAC and we look forward to working with the General Assembly, our partners in local government and the private sector to ensure we stay focused on the mission."

During 2008, Lt. Governor Brown and the BRAC Subcabinet implemented the first stages of the BRAC Action Plan. The Progress Report released yesterday cites significant progress in building a sustainable workforce to fill the jobs coming to Maryland and developing the infrastructure to serve a larger population and outlines that progress and recommends a course of action to guide the next stages of implementation for 2009.

Reflected in the Progress Report are a number of programs and activities to address the needs of incoming federal agencies and military commands, private sector employers, as well as employees and their families. Among the programs are first time initiatives: BRAC Community Revitalization and Enhancement Zone legislation and designation of zones, BRAC Higher Education Grants and Water Summit that was convened in November to address environmental issues in northeastern Maryland. Other initiatives and progress points featured in the Progress Report include:

- **Workforce ONE Maryland Program:** The Maryland Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation oversees the program to fund workforce development projects and initiatives to assist with the BRAC impact. The program is funded in part through a \$4 million U.S. Department of Labor grant. Lt. Governor Brown announced the first two rounds of grant recipients earlier this year.
- **Outreach to Ft. Monmouth and DISA Personnel:** Maryland has opened One-Stop Career Centers and informational kiosks at Fort Monmouth and at military installations in Northern Virginia. In addition, Lt. Governor Brown and the BRAC Subcabinet have met regularly with command leaders at each of the missions relocating to one of Maryland's installations.
- **BRACSTAT:** The BRAC Subcabinet launched BRACSTAT, a reporting system developed to track, evaluate and improve programs presented in the BRAC Action Plan. BRACSTAT is based on the acclaimed CitiStat program which took shape during Martin O'Malley's terms as Mayor of Baltimore. The first BRACSTAT meeting was held in October and monthly meetings have been convened since. Beginning next year, BRACSTAT will meet quarterly.
- **Budget Items:** Maryland has invested \$183 million to expand wastewater treatment plant capacity, mitigate the environmental impact of additional wastewater discharge on the Chesapeake Bay and upgrade water and sewer systems in counties impacted by BRAC. Since taking office, Maryland has invested more than \$733 million in school construction, a majority directed toward counties that are slated to receive the most significant BRAC growth. Additionally, Maryland invested more than \$220 million for capital projects at institutes of higher education, including \$81 million at community colleges.
- **Transportation:** The BRAC Subcabinet helped manage the complex transportation needs of BRAC-impacted regions. Specific projects include: the implementation of the BRAC Intersection Program; the advancement of 2007 MARC Growth and Investment Plan that aims to triple MARC ridership by 2035; the purchase of 13 bi-level commuter coach cars and 26 new locomotives for MARC; passage of transit-oriented development legislation; and the start of the I-95/MD24 Improvement Project.
- **BRAC Small and Minority Business Opportunities Study:** The Governor's Office of Minority Affairs commissioned and completed a study identifying current and projected BRAC procurement opportunities for small and minority businesses. The study found that Maryland-based businesses received \$36.9 billion in federal procurement funds. Of those funds, nearly 28 percent were allocated to small businesses. Minority-owned firms, however, made up less than five percent of the contracts awarded to small businesses.

In addition to recounting the progress made during 2008, the Progress Report provides a dialogue of the Subcabinet's focus for 2009. That focus includes support for: legislation that will provide licensing reciprocity for specific job classifications to ease employment transitions for potential workers; expansion of the Workforce ONE Maryland Program; the organization of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Summit scheduled for January, 2009; expanding opportunities to small and minority-owned businesses by utilizing the findings of the BRAC Small and Minority Business

Opportunities Study; and advancing a multi-year transit-oriented capital investment strategy to ensure that BRAC growth is sustainable.

The BRAC Subcabinet was established by legislation that passed during the 2007 legislative session and is comprised of 10 cabinet secretaries. Lt. Governor Brown chairs the Subcabinet and leads the group's effort to coordinate Maryland's preparations for BRAC by working horizontally across state government and vertically through partnerships with local, county, state and federal government.

The full Progress Report can be viewed at
<http://www.brac.maryland.gov/documents/2008bracReport.pdf>.

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